

My dear Maria

Tel Fa Civita Vecchia
Sun Aug 10th 1873

At last you have a little summer weather & I have too much for the heats have weakened me & made ^{me} give up my favorite walks & I should be down but my excellent woman servant makes me capital dinners & finds me splendid wine so I am still on my legs & hope to gain strength for today is cooler & I have picked up already - I was in doubt about a bath but Dr. Valeriani came here & advised that I should take one bath to try the effect & the effect is good, very good - You see the heat gives a restlessness, in Italian "mania" then follows loss of appetite & sleep - These last I have not suffered but I cannot walk as I did last year.

Perhaps I feel the heat more as I am alone but I have so many interesting studies that I rather like my solitude.

I have promised in mid Sept^r to pay a long promised visit to my fr[?] Cappelli in the mountains, but unless I get back my strength I won't go for the fatigue is too great in travelling & also the change in my living for I am as regular as a clock & my health depends on it also I want to get back in brilliant health as I have my painting to interest me & hope to make it my daily occupation for otherwise I shall mope.

to languish. — You will think of me on the 4th
Dec & I will drink all your healths — Dr. Valeriani
is determined to make a grand dinner on that day.

I went out to dinner lately with good effect in Rome
& returned without fatigue to my surprise for I
decline all the ev.^g invitations as they disturb my
sleep.

My two paintings are much admired & are considered
among my best works, but there is no encouragement
the political world has suspended the Arts for the
present — so I must work to please myself — As I
shall have the Theatre & the Doctor you'll consider
that I shall not be so lazy off — As I am alone I
want some amusement.

I hope to hear a good account of you as you have
sheerful summer & are able to go out & enjoy yourself.

How you'd be surprised could you see me here
passing the most primitive life, up at 5 & 6
dining at 12 & then sleeping 2 hours — salad supper
at 9 with fruit & to bed at 11 & all this exact every
day — I go to walk at 6 ev.^g

God bless you my dear Sister

Your loving brother Joe

may be preserved to me during my life which cannot
be long as next December (7.th) I shall be 80

I am still persecuted by English enemies but I take
no notice of them nor do I even know the nature of their
attacks & I am fortunate in my tranquillity & patience

You'll be pleased to know that my f.^r D. Valeriani
his wife & sister are still keeping house with ^{me} I am
very comfortable - The fine private theatre in my house
is finished & so I have a Salon & a Theatre actually
about me - The English will also act in it I'm rent free

I have written an essay on Light & Colour which
has long been bothering my brain - Also I have another
essay on the ancient Etruscans as regards their religion
but the notes on Keats are the chief matters which now
occupy my pen - When I get to Rome next month
I am to do a picture of a plum pudding which Mrs
Linder (a handsome English Lady) is carrying with the
spirit in blue flames! This is quite new

I am here in complete solitude I have not spoken
a word of English for a month - I get the English
papers as well as the Italian - my good old servant
Betty is with me & as she is a good cook I get on well
Good bye my dear Tom my love to all your dear ones
your loving brother Joe